ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON /WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA

ISSUED: February 1992

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR FORCE

..... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

JANUARY 1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness rose seasonally in January, but the statewide rate of unemployment, seasonally adjusted, remained 7.1 percent.**
- **Nonfarm jobs fell seasonally by 110,800 in January to 5,062,900. They were about 42,400 below their level of January 1991.**

In December 1991 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries rose to a new high of $483.81, as the average workweek increased by 0.4 hour and average hourly pay by 8 cents.**
- **The total number of initial claims jumped by 60 percent from November and weeks claimed by 40 percent.**
- **Almost $50 million benefits were paid to emergency unemployment compensation claimants.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates rose in 54 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.**
- **All of Pennsylvania's 15 major labor market areas had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in November 1991 and December 1990.**

Special Interest Topic: Emergency Unemployment Compensation

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry — Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1272 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

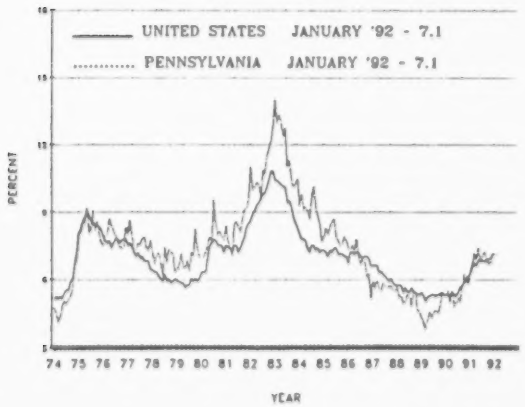
CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

JOBLESSNESS in Pennsylvania was virtually unchanged in January. The statewide seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment held at 7.1 percent while the nation's rate also held at 7.1 percent.

Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show January's unemployment in Pennsylvania, adjusted for seasonality, up only 1,000 to 422,000. Although this was the highest number of unemployed since August of last year, the increase was much less than economists predicted. Compared to one year ago, the jobless rate in the Commonwealth was up from 6.3 percent.

Employment, seasonally adjusted, was up 24,000 from December to 5,556,000 in January. This healthy gain, without a corresponding decline among the unemployed, pushed the statewide civilian labor force up to 5,978,000, third highest ever, below only last year's high of 5,982,000 in October and the all-time high of 6,008,000 in March 1990. Compared to one year ago, employment was up 56,000.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

	JAN. 1992	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991	CHANGE FROM DEC. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1991
Civilian Labor Force	5,935	5,930	5,831	5	104
Employment	5,470	5,531	5,416	-61	54
Unemployment	465	399	415	66	50
Rate of Unemp.	7.8%	6.7%	7.1%	1.1	0.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
Civilian Labor Force	5,978	5,953	5,872	25	106
Employment	5,556	5,532	5,500	24	56
Unemployment	422	421	372	1	50
Rate of Unemp.	7.1%	7.1%	6.3%	0.0	0.8

Among the eleven largest states for which seasonally adjusted data are available, Pennsylvania's 7.1 percent rate of unemployment in January ranked eighth, unchanged from December. Only New Jersey at 6.8 percent, Ohio at 6.7 percent, and North Carolina at 5.7 percent ranked lower.

January's numbers were encouraging in light of recent deterioration and lower economic forecasts. Economic recovery stalled during the fourth quarter in Pennsylvania and the nation, and economists agreed that things were going to get worse before they got better. But employment rose in January at both the state and national levels. Pennsylvania's employment gain is supported by encouraging reports from employers around the state. Seasonal layoffs were smaller than normal, especially in the manufacturing sector which has been holding up surprisingly well during the recession. This sector is sporting an average workweek of 41.6 hours, indicating considerable overtime hours. This suggests that business activity is up, but employers fear hiring new workers if the economy is going to turn down.

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	JAN. 1992 AP/	DEC. 1991 P/	NOV. 1991	DEC. 1990	CHANGE FROM NOV. 1991	CHANGE FROM DEC. 1990
NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS	5,062.9	5,173.7	5,186.5	5,218.5	-12.8	-44.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,164.7	1,193.3	1,210.6	1,244.6	-17.3	-51.3
Mining	24.5	25.2	25.7	26.9	-10.9	-1.7
Construction	192.4	210.8	221.7	219.4	-5.9	-8.6
Manufacturing	947.8	957.3	963.2	998.3	-3.1	-41.0
Durable Goods	526.3	531.3	534.4	561.6	-0.1	-30.3
Lumber and Wood		27.3	27.4	29.6	-0.2	-2.3
Furniture and Fixtures		17.6	17.8	19.1	-0.9	-1.5
Stone, Clay, and Glass		42.0	42.9	45.2	-0.9	-3.2
Primary Metals		80.7	80.4	87.2	0.3	-6.5
Fabricated Metals		83.4	83.9	87.1	-0.5	-3.7
Industrial Machinery		98.8	99.7	105.2	-0.9	-6.4
Electric and Electronic Equipment		76.7	77.1	78.0	-0.4	-1.3
Transportation Equipment		47.2	47.8	50.9	-0.6	-3.7
Instruments and Related		37.5	37.2	39.4	0.3	-1.9
Miscellaneous Manufacturing		20.1	20.2	19.9	-0.1	0.2
Nondurable Goods	421.5	426.0	428.8	436.7	-2.8	-10.7
Food and Kindred		88.8	89.9	90.3	-1.1	-1.5
Tobacco		1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Textile Mill		26.1	26.5	26.9	-0.4	-0.8
Apparel and Other Textiles		64.3	64.7	67.9	-0.4	-3.6
Paper and Allied		38.9	39.2	39.4	-0.3	-0.5
Printing and Publishing		83.8	83.6	85.7	0.2	-1.9
Chemicals and Allied		61.4	61.7	62.4	-0.3	-1.0
Petroleum and Coal		11.6	11.7	11.4	-0.1	0.2
Rubber and Plastics		42.1	42.4	42.7	-0.3	-0.6
Leather		7.9	8.0	8.9	-0.1	-1.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,895.9	3,978.2	3,973.9	3,972.9	4.3	5.3
Transportation	166.6	171.6	170.0	168.7	1.6	2.9
Public Utilities	105.0	104.4	104.7	104.9	-0.3	-0.5
Communications		52.1	52.0	50.7	0.1	1.4
Electric, Gas and Sanitary		52.3	52.7	54.2	-0.4	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	270.0	271.7	271.8	277.9	-0.1	-6.2
Retail Trade	889.2	933.2	922.6	937.5	10.6	-4.3
General Merchandise Stores		134.4	130.1	133.8	4.3	0.6
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	298.6	300.3	299.5	299.1	0.8	1.2
Finance		141.4	140.5	140.4	0.9	1.0
Insurance		118.1	118.0	117.9	0.1	0.2
Real Estate		40.8	41.0	40.8	-0.2	0.0
Services	1,471.3	1,489.6	1,492.3	1,466.3	-2.7	23.3
Business		209.7	212.9	213.9	-3.2	-4.2
Health		496.4	492.9	480.4	3.5	16.0
Hospitals		267.8	265.2	258.8	2.6	9.0
Legal		42.6	42.9	42.9	-0.3	-0.3
Educational		170.0	171.8	163.7	-1.8	6.3
Social		111.9	111.4	107.0	0.5	4.9
Other		459.0	460.4	458.4	-1.4	0.6
Government	695.2	707.4	713.0	718.5	-5.6	-11.1
Federal		134.5	134.0	136.4	0.5	-1.9
State		148.2	152.5	161.4	-4.3	-13.2
Local		424.7	426.5	420.7	-1.8	4.0
PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.0	0.2	1.2

AP/ = Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data, used to compute "change from" columns.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

JOBS FELL seasonally by 110,800 in January to 5,062,900, according to advance preliminary data from the monthly survey of nonagricultural employer payrolls. Jobs were 42,400 fewer than in January 1991 mainly because of declines in manufacturing, construction, trade and government. About three-fourths of the December-to-January job losses occurred in the service-producing sector, specifically in retail trade, services and government. Goods-producing jobs were down by 28,600, chiefly in construction and manufacturing.

JOBS DECREASED in Pennsylvania by 12,800 since November to 5,173,700 in December. This month-to-month drop was nearly double the seasonal norm and brought December's job total to 44,800 below that of December 1990. The reason for the decline during both periods was the same: major losses in the goods-producing sector overwhelmed the much smaller gains in the service-producing sector.

The non-farm job count excludes not only farm workers, but also domestic workers, unpaid family workers, and the self-employed.

Jobs within the goods-producing sector fell by 17,300 for the month and 51,300 for the year. Declines in each of its major components -- mining, construction, durable goods and nondurable goods manufacturing -- however, were close to seasonal expectations.

Due to the lingering recession, record low jobs were posted in December for durable goods manufacturing, overall manufacturing, and the goods-producing sector as a whole. This followed November's record lows for both durable goods manufacturing and manufacturing, and a near record low for the goods-producing sector. While nearly all industry groups shared in the over-the-year goods-producing decline, primary metals and industrial machinery each lost over 6,000 jobs since December 1990. Construction fell by nearly 9,000 jobs over the same time period.

Climbing for the fourth straight month in December, jobs in the service-producing industries grew by 4,300 from November and by 5,300 from December 1990 to 3,978,200. The job pickup from November, however, was only half of the expected seasonal rise. Over the month, the largest gain was in retail trade (10,600), owing to the Christmas shopping season. For the year, retail trade was off by more than 4,000 and wholesale trade was off by more than 6,000.

For the year, the largest decline was shown by Pennsylvania state government: the loss of 13,200 jobs represented a drop of over 9 percent in state employment from December 1990.

The largest over-the-year gain was shown in services, up by more than 23,000 jobs. The largest gains within these services were health and educational services, both of which expanded by over 3 percent. While social services expanded by a smaller number, its year-to-year gain was more than 4 percent.

EMPLOYERS

Looking for workers for employee training that's specific to your business? Then you're looking for the Pennsylvania Job Center near you; where employers find the employees they need, and workers find the jobs they want.

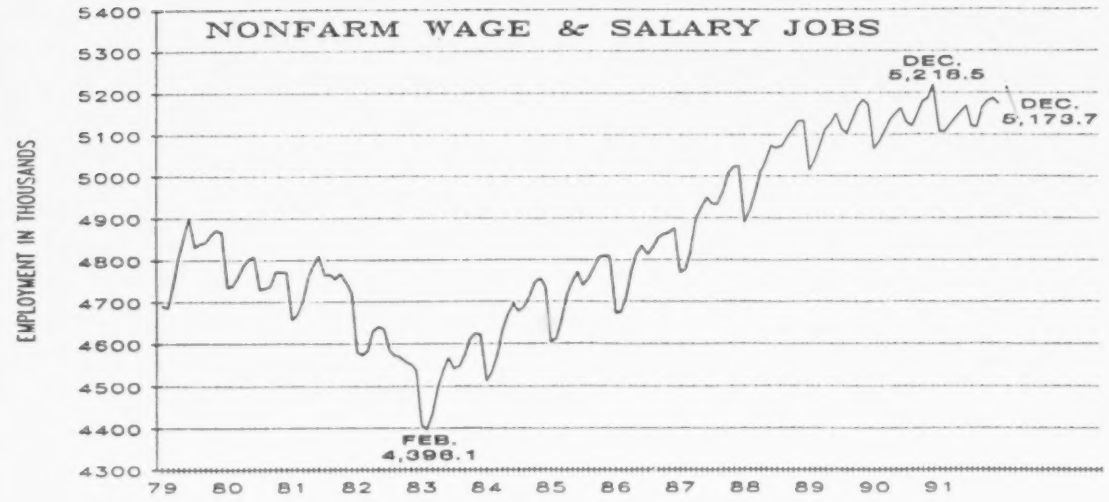
For a working future, this is the place.

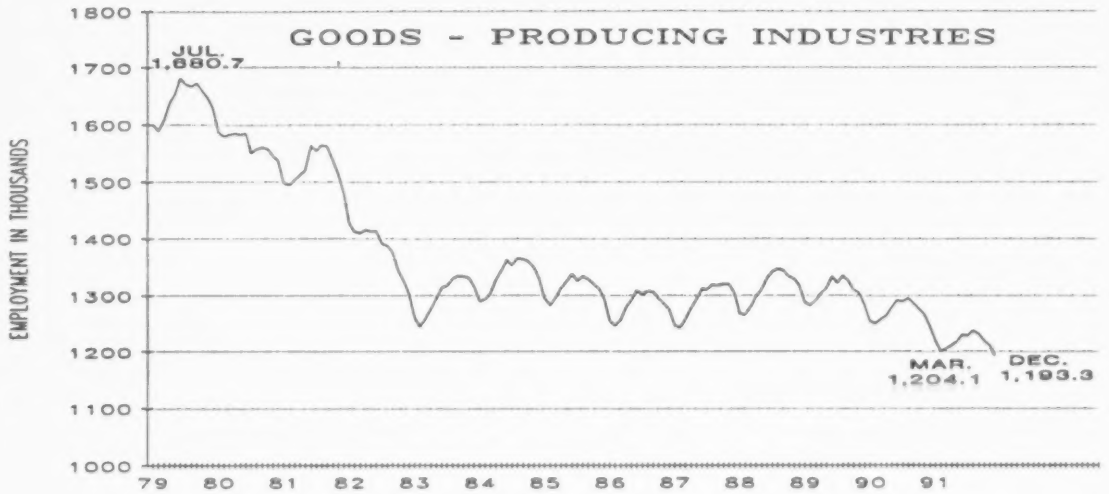
For the Job Center near you call:

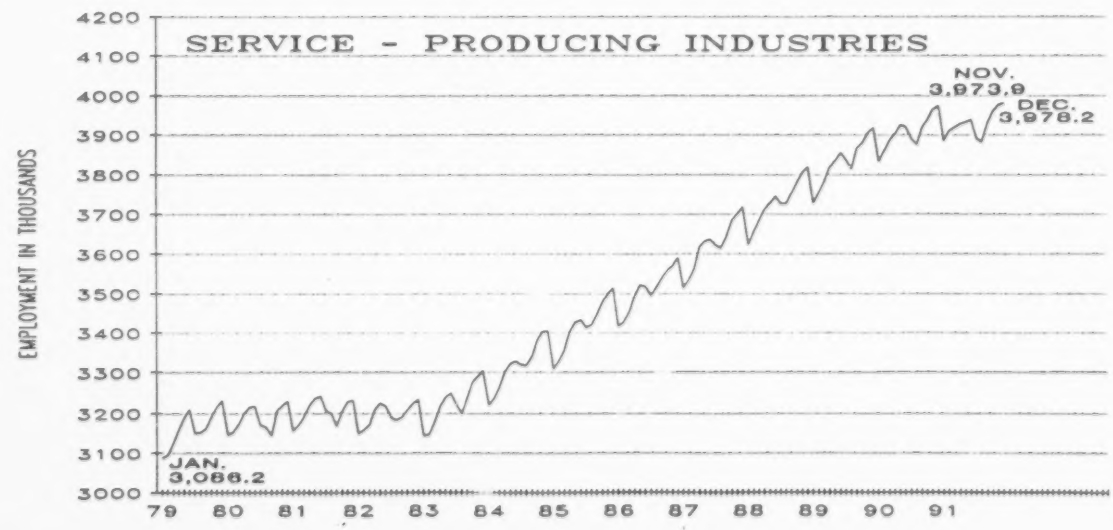
1-800-622-JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

ESTABLISHMENT PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	DEC. 1991 P/	NOV. 1991	DEC. 1990	DEC. 1991 P/	NOV. 1991	DEC. 1990	DEC. 1991 P/	NOV. 1991	DEC. 1990
Coal Mining	734.38	721.58	707.54	44.4	43.6	42.7	16.54	16.55	16.57
Nonmetallic Minerals	475.45	540.08	496.22	41.2	46.2	43.3	11.54	11.69	11.46
Manufacturing	483.81	475.86	460.94	41.6	41.2	40.9	11.63	11.55	11.27
Durable Goods	515.68	511.98	495.81	42.2	42.0	41.7	12.22	12.19	11.89
Lumber and Wood	378.11	378.67	356.64	38.9	39.2	37.7	9.72	9.66	9.46
Furniture and Fixtures	411.88	406.56	373.74	41.9	42.0	39.3	9.83	9.68	9.51
Stone, Clay, and Glass	492.82	503.36	475.12	41.0	41.6	41.1	12.02	12.10	11.56
Primary Metals	599.00	591.48	564.40	43.5	43.3	42.5	13.77	13.66	13.28
Fabricated Metals	501.99	486.87	468.15	43.5	42.3	42.1	11.54	11.51	11.12
Industrial Machinery	547.39	539.32	534.57	43.0	42.6	42.8	12.73	12.66	12.49
Electric and Electronic Equipment	487.34	478.13	475.25	42.8	42.2	42.7	11.44	11.33	11.13
Transportation Equipment	586.04	601.74	583.80	40.5	41.3	42.0	14.47	14.57	13.90
Instruments and Related	491.83	501.54	472.80	41.4	41.9	40.9	11.88	11.97	11.56
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	475.19	461.38	420.81	40.1	39.1	38.5	11.85	11.80	10.93
Nondurable Goods	445.40	432.55	416.16	40.9	40.2	39.9	10.89	10.76	10.43
Food and Kindred	477.43	470.92	458.16	41.3	41.2	41.5	11.56	11.43	11.04
Tobacco	276.97	281.46	296.61	38.9	39.2	43.3	7.12	7.18	6.85
Textile Mill	328.10	332.00	301.02	39.2	40.0	36.8	8.37	8.30	8.18
Apparel and Other Textiles	255.26	252.04	236.64	35.7	35.7	34.8	7.15	7.06	6.80
Paper and Allied	527.47	520.65	509.21	43.2	43.1	43.3	12.21	12.08	11.76
Printing and Publishing	503.88	473.54	474.36	41.2	39.2	40.2	12.23	12.08	11.80
Chemicals and Allied	621.48	612.36	573.89	45.1	44.6	42.7	13.78	13.73	13.44
Petroleum and Coal	713.00	730.25	683.20	42.9	44.5	42.7	16.62	16.41	16.00
Rubber and Plastics	465.88	423.90	425.80	45.1	41.6	42.2	10.33	10.19	10.09
Leather	286.77	291.46	282.65	36.3	38.3	38.3	7.90	7.61	7.38
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
Communications	600.56	598.44	592.95	37.7	37.9	40.2	15.93	15.79	14.75
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary	771.76	759.93	705.56	43.9	43.4	42.3	17.58	17.51	16.68

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

ANOTHER RECORD high for average weekly earnings was set by Pennsylvania's production workers in December. Average weekly earnings of $483.81 were $7.95 above the previous high reached in November and $22.87 above the level of December 1990. These increases resulted from pickups in both hours and pay.

At 41.6 hours, manufacturing's average workweek posted a 2-year high -- exceeding the previous high set in November 1990 by 0.3 hour. It is encouraging to note that November and December 1991 were two of only four months in the last two years where the average workweek exceeded 41 hours. This suggests a pickup of orders earlier held back because of the recession.

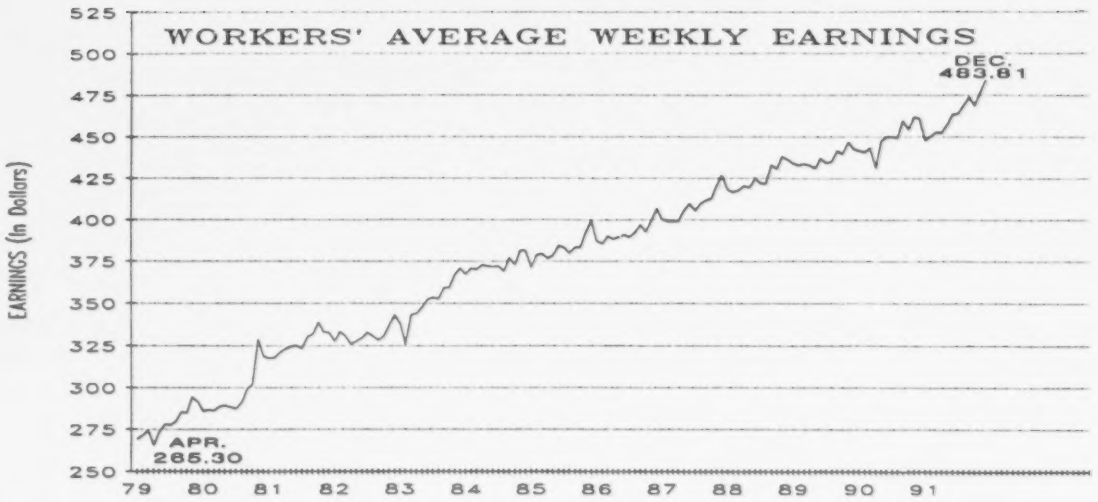
Also setting a high in December, average hourly earnings of $11.63 were eight cents an hour above November 1991's previous record. However, there is a tendency for hourly earnings to rise month-by-month in contrast to work hours which tend to vary with the economy.

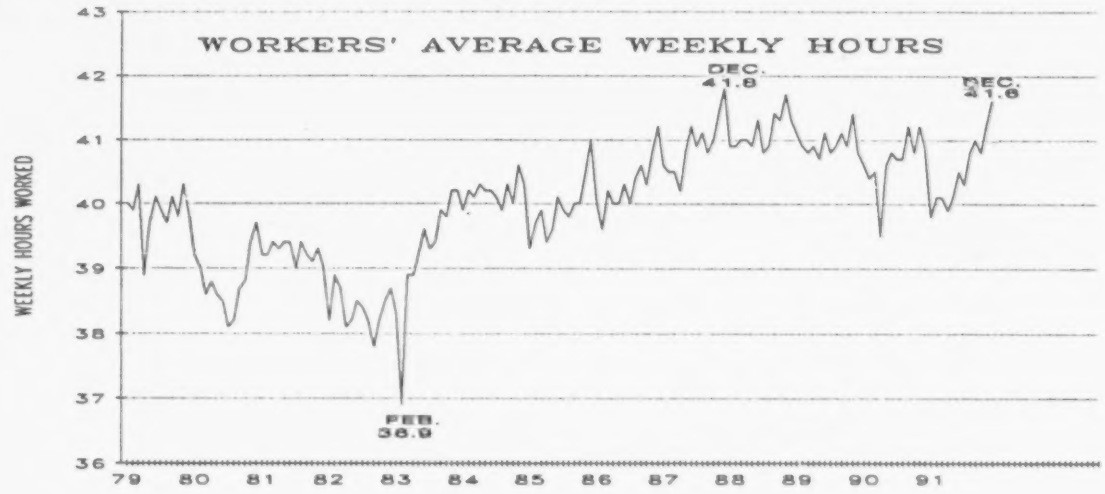
Not all industry groups shared in December's overall increases. Among the durable goods industry group, four of ten industries showed lower earnings than in November, while five averaged a shorter workweek. The largest drop in both hours and earnings was in transportation equipment where earnings fell by $15.70 and hours declined by 0.8 hour since November. Only one "hard goods" industry -- lumber and wood products -- averaged a less-than-40-hour workweek in December.

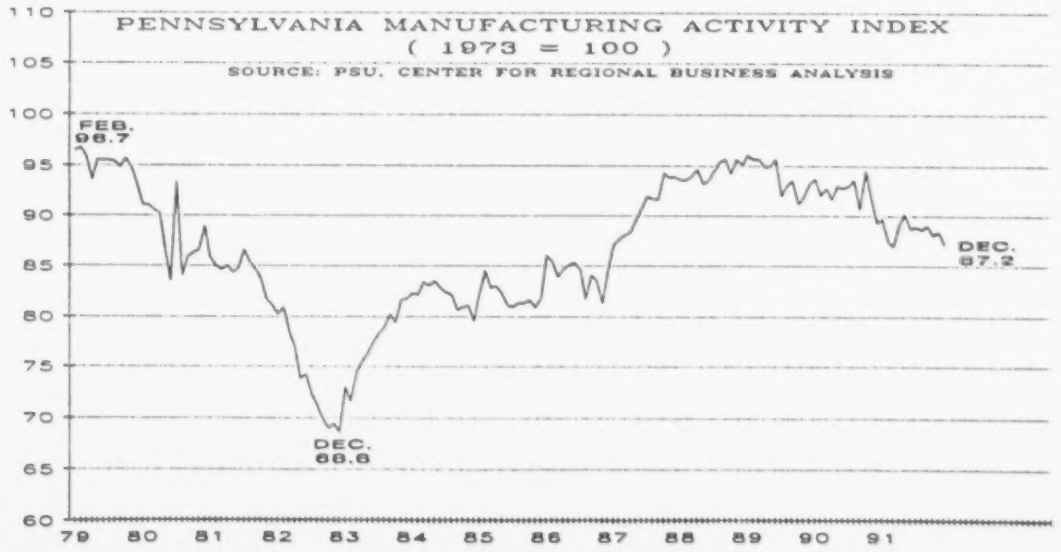
Individually, nondurable goods industries behaved much the same as durable goods; four of ten groups showed declines in both earnings and average hours worked. Nevertheless, while the 42.2 hour workweek for "hard goods" industries in December averaged well over the 40.9 hour workweek for "soft goods" industries, nondurable goods registered its 2-year high in December. The durable goods sector reached its high in November 1990.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

REGULAR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	DEC. 1991	NOV. 1991	DEC. 1990	CHANGE FROM NOV. 1991	CHANGE FROM DEC. 1990
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	**181,036**	112,873	155,811	68,163	25,225
Weeks Claimed	**939,851**	673,485	750,366	266,366	189,485
...Average Weekly Volume	**213,603**	160,354	178,659	53,249	34,944
Insured Unemployment Rate	**4.4%**	3.3%	3.6%	1.1	0.8
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	**53,743**	32,823	48,347	20,920	5,396
Final Payments	**16,425**	12,245	9,559	4,180	6,866
Weeks Paid	**805,007**	544,157	629,491	260,850	175,516
Net Benefit Amount	**$152,472,561**	$94,944,913	$111,113,532	$57,527,648	$41,359,029
Average Check	**$189.41**	$174.48	$176.51	$14.93	$12.90

CLAIMS JUMPED sharply in December, a month which normally experiences an upsurge in claims activity. Initial claims soared 60 percent to 181,036, the third consecutive monthly increase. Weeks claimed advanced 40 percent to 939,851, or 266,366 higher than last month. The average weekly volume increased in response and pushed the insured unemployment rate to 4.4 percent, the highest monthly rate since April 1991.

All payment activity increased substantially in December: first payments by 64 percent, final payments by 34 percent, and weeks paid by 48 percent. The net benefit amount increased to $152,472,561, or 61 percent, in response to both the jump in weeks paid and the rise in the average check to $189.41, the highest average check amount in 1991.

The December Unemployment Trust Fund balance decreased by $117 million from November as disbursements exceeded income.

EUC PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	Dec. 1991	Cumulative
First payments	63,268	75,369
Weeks paid	259,846	271,947
Benefit Amount	$49,748,940	52,109,949
Average Check	$191	$192

In December, 63,268 persons received checks of $50 million or an average of $191 weekly for Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits. These figures include payments to former federal employees and veterans, as well as to regular UC exhaustees. EUC began November 17 in all states. Pennsylvania claimants can now draw up to 33 weeks of benefits. See the Special Interest Topic on page 11 for an explanation.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY

DECEMBER 1991		
Income	$	35,440,892
Disbursements	$	152,471,275
Cash Reserves	$	1,151,952,297

UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

RATE INCREASES outnumbered decreases in December by 9 to 1, as claims, not seasonally adjusted, inched upward in 54 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties since November. Seven counties had stable rates while only six had declines.

The largest rise, 4.0 percentage points, occurred in Juniata County where unemployment climbed from 900 to 1,400 over the month, when a fire in December burned a major kitchen cabinet factory to the ground. No other county showed an increase of as much as 2.0 percentage points over the month.

Three counties, Chester, Cumberland and Montgomery, continued to have rates below 5.0 percent. In contrast, Forest County, the state's least populous county, posted the highest unemployment rate for the second month in a row. Its rate for December was 14.1 percent. This was the first time since March that any county's unemployment rate topped 14.0 percent.

There seems to be a growing spread between the counties with the highest and the lowest unemployment rates. Counties with double-digit rates are up from five to 14 since November, and up from five since December 1990. Almost two-thirds of the counties with December gains of 1.0 percentage point or more are concentrated in the bottom quarter of counties, i.e., those with the highest rates.

DECEMBER RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- 4.4 to 6.4
- 6.5 to 8.4
- 8.5 to 9.4
- 9.5 to 14.1

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RANKING

	DECEMBER 1991 P/ RANK	RATE	VOLUME	NOVEMBER RATE	DIFF.
Chester	1	4.4	8,800	4.3	0.1
Cumberland	2	4.5	4,900	4.1	0.4
Montgomery	3	4.9	19,000	4.8	0.1
Allegheny	4	5.0	33,600	5.0	0.0
Delaware	5	5.1	15,000	5.1	0.0
Dauphin	6	5.6	7,600	5.4	0.2
Lebanon	6	5.6	3,600	5.6	0.0
Bucks	8	5.9	17,800	5.9	0.0
Franklin	8	5.9	3,600	5.8	0.1
Lancaster	8	5.9	13,300	5.1	0.8
Centre	11	6.0	4,200	6.1	-0.1
Montour	11	6.0	500	5.9	0.1
Berks	13	6.2	10,900	5.7	0.5
Lehigh	13	6.2	9,400	6.2	0.0
Adams	15	6.4	2,600	5.9	0.5
Bradford	15	6.4	2,000	6.4	0.0
Northampton	15	6.4	7,700	6.1	0.3
Cameron	18	6.6	200	6.2	0.4
York	18	6.6	12,300	5.4	1.2
Perry	20	6.7	1,400	5.5	1.2
Washington	20	6.7	6,300	6.4	0.3
Mercer	22	7.1	3,800	6.7	0.4
Westmoreland	22	7.1	12,800	6.5	0.6
Philadelphia	24	7.2	53,100	7.6	-0.4
Butler	25	7.3	5,700	7.0	0.3
McKean	26	7.4	1,600	7.6	-0.2
Warren	26	7.4	1,600	7.1	0.3
Lackawanna	28	7.6	8,400	7.3	0.3
Lycoming	28	7.6	4,500	7.1	0.5
Tioga	30	7.8	1,500	7.4	0.4
Elk	31	7.9	1,300	7.6	0.3
Lawrence	32	8.2	4,000	8.0	0.2
Pike	33	8.3	1,000	8.3	0.0
Snyder	33	8.3	1,600	7.2	1.1
Venango	35	8.4	2,100	8.2	0.2
Erie	36	8.5	11,600	7.4	1.1
Potter	36	8.5	700	7.3	1.2
Cambria	38	8.6	5,600	8.5	0.1
Luzerne	38	8.6	13,800	8.7	-0.1
Monroe	38	8.6	4,300	8.0	0.6
Union	38	8.6	1,500	7.6	1.0
Blair	42	8.7	5,400	7.9	0.8
Susquehanna	42	8.7	1,500	8.4	0.3
Crawford	44	9.0	3,500	8.6	0.4
Sullivan	44	9.0	300	8.4	0.6
Columbia	46	9.2	3,000	8.2	1.0
Fayette	47	9.3	5,600	9.4	-0.1
Northumberland	48	9.5	4,600	9.1	0.4
Beaver	49	9.6	5,800	9.3	0.3
Jefferson	49	9.6	1,900	9.5	0.1
Carbon	51	9.8	2,600	9.5	0.3
Fulton	51	9.8	600	8.2	1.6
Schuylkill	51	9.8	7,100	8.4	1.4
Wyoming	54	10.1	1,400	8.2	1.9
Armstrong	55	10.3	3,000	9.2	1.1
Somerset	55	10.3	3,500	9.2	1.1
Clarion	57	10.5	2,000	8.9	1.6
Clinton	57	10.5	1,600	9.2	1.3
Indiana	59	10.6	3,700	9.9	0.7
Bedford	60	10.7	2,400	9.4	1.3
Mifflin	60	10.7	2,300	10.8	-0.1
Wayne	62	10.8	2,200	10.0	0.8
Clearfield	63	10.9	3,800	10.7	0.2
Greene	64	11.2	1,500	11.0	0.2
Huntingdon	65	13.0	2,500	11.8	1.2
Juniata	66	13.4	1,400	9.4	4.0
Forest	67	14.1	300	12.5	1.6

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA UNEMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	DEC.1991 P/ VOLUME	RATE	NOV. 1991 VOLUME	RATE	DEC. 1990 VOLUME	RATE
United States	8,891.0	7.1%	8,499.0	6.8%	7,600.0	6.1%
Pennsylvania	421.0	7.1	401.0	6.7	337.0	5.7
Labor Market Area						
Allentown-Bethlehem MSA	23.4	6.8	22.8	6.7	19.5	5.8
Altoona MSA	5.4	8.6	5.1	8.1	4.9	7.9
Beaver County PMSA	6.1	10.0	5.9	9.7	5.1	8.5
Erie MSA	12.0	8.7	10.2	7.5	7.9	5.8
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA	19.3	5.7	17.0	5.1	15.6	4.7
Johnstown MSA	9.3	9.3	8.9	8.9	7.8	7.9
Lancaster MSA	13.5	5.9	11.3	5.0	10.5	4.6
Philadelphia PMSA	164.0	6.7	159.1	6.4	126.2	5.2
Pittsburgh PMSA	62.0	6.1	59.5	5.9	50.1	5.0
Reading MSA	11.8	6.6	10.9	6.1	10.4	5.9
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA	31.8	8.6	30.4	8.2	26.8	7.3
Sharon MSA	4.0	7.5	3.8	7.2	2.7	5.1
State College MSA	4.2	6.0	4.0	5.8	3.7	5.4
Williamsport MSA	4.5	7.5	4.4	7.3	4.3	7.1
York MSA	15.0	6.6	12.9	5.7	11.2	5.0

P/ = Preliminary data. **Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.**

ALL FIFTEEN of Pennsylvania's major labor market areas recorded higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in December than in November. Every major labor market area was up for the year as well. This would seem to affirm the much discussed sluggish recovery.

The Erie MSA, which climbed by more than 1.0 percentage point over the month, was the major gainer, reflecting a large temporary December layoff by a major area employer. Erie, which used to have rates consistently below the state's average, has had above average rates for the entire second half of 1991. This is because Erie's rates remained high while the state's dropped in mid-year.

There were no labor market areas with double-digit unemployment rates in September, October, or November. However, in December, Beaver County Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) climbed from 9.7 percent to 10.0 percent. Beaver County, still suffering the effects of the early 80's recession, has had an unemployment rate consistently over 9.0 percent for every month since January 1991, and has had the highest rate of the 15 major labor market areas for every month since June.

The Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 5.7 percent unemployed, replaced Lancaster as the major labor market area with the lowest rate in Pennsylvania. This is because Lancaster had a month-to-month rise of 0.9 percentage point and Harrisburg a rise of 0.6 point. For each month in 1991, these two areas posted the lowest or next lowest unemployment rate among the 15 labor market areas. Prior to 1991, each had rates consistently below 5.0 percent.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, for Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) ranged from a low of 4.4 percent in SDA 21 to a high of 9.6 percent in SDAs 05 and 10.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREA LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	DECEMBER 1991 P/ LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME	RATE
01	Erie	136.6	125.0	11.6	8.5
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	107.2	97.7	9.5	8.9
03	City of Pittsburgh	174.9	166.2	8.7	5.0
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	492.9	468.1	24.8	5.0
05	Beaver	60.8	55.0	5.8	9.6
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	141.3	128.9	12.4	8.8
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	239.8	221.3	18.4	7.7
08	Greene, Washington	108.0	100.2	7.8	7.2
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	104.5	94.9	9.6	9.2
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	208.9	188.9	20.0	9.6
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	233.8	215.2	18.7	8.0
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	84.5	77.8	6.6	7.9
14	Lackawanna	109.8	101.5	8.4	7.6
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	109.2	99.1	10.1	9.3
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	233.4	212.5	20.9	9.0
17	Philadelphia	733.9	680.9	53.1	7.2
18	Bucks	301.6	283.8	17.8	5.9
19	Montgomery	389.5	370.6	19.0	4.9
20	Delaware	291.8	276.9	15.0	5.1
21	Chester	200.5	191.7	8.8	4.4
22	Lehigh, Northampton	273.6	256.4	17.2	6.3
23	Berks	177.5	166.6	10.9	6.2
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	343.5	324.6	19.0	5.5
25	Lancaster	226.8	213.5	13.3	5.9
26	York	186.8	174.6	12.3	6.6
27	Adams, Franklin	101.0	94.8	6.2	6.1
28	Lawrence, Mercer	101.2	93.5	7.7	7.6
29	Montour, Northumberland	56.1	51.0	5.1	9.0
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	**5930.0**	**5531.0**	**399.0**	**6.7**

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

P/ = Preliminary data.

Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (EUC) BENEFIT DURATION RAISED TO 33 WEEKS

Pennsylvania's maximum duration of EUC benefits increased by 13 weeks -- from 20 weeks to 33 weeks -- effective February 9, 1992. New legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the President February 7, 1992 provides an additional 13 weeks of EUC benefits and extends the program from June 13 to July 4, 1992. With the new law, a total of 174,000 individuals are projected to receive an estimated $600 million in EUC benefits in Pennsylvania.

The EUC program provides additional weeks of benefits to persons who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits since March 1, 1991, or whose benefit years ended since that time with no further entitlements. Although the program ends July 4, 1992, persons who begin drawing EUC by that date can continue until they draw their maximum weeks of EUC, or until they are no longer eligible for EUC. The maximum weeks a claimant can receive until June 13, 1992 is 33 weeks; the maximum then drops to 20 weeks until the program ends on July 4, 1992.

A claimant's maximum duration of EUC benefits is dependent upon the regular benefit entitlement (26 or 16 weeks) and when the first EUC claim is filed (see table). All EUC claimants going back to November 17, 1991 are eligible to have their EUC benefit duration increased to the new EUC maximum due to Pennsylvania currently being in a "high unemployment" (* see footnote) period. A "high unemployment" period is projected to occur through the end of the EUC program on July 4, 1992. Therefore, new EUC claimants through July 4, 1992 are projected to qualify for the maximum number of benefit weeks provided for under the program. **Actual and projected durations for Pennsylvania are shown in bold type on the table.**

	EUC Maximum Duration Based on Claimant's Beginning Date of EUC Benefits	
	November 17, 1991 through June 13, 1992	June 14, 1992 through July 4, 1992
Claimants whose regular entitlement was 26 weeks		
"High unemployment" period*	**33 weeks**	**20 weeks**
Not "high" period	26 weeks	13 weeks
Claimants whose regular entitlement was 16 weeks		
"High unemployment" period*	**20.8 weeks**	**16 weeks**
Not "high" period	20.8 weeks	13 weeks

* A high unemployment period exists when a state's 13 week average adjusted insured unemployment rate (includes regular program exhaustees) is at least 5.0 percent or the six month average total unemployment rate is at least 9.0 percent.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employee contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.